Reviewer’s report

Title: Comparison of Survival Benefits of Nephron-Sparing Intervention or Active Surveillance for Patients with Localized Renal Masses: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis

Version: 0 Date: 08 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Maria Angela Cerruto

Reviewer's report:

The Authors carried out a systematic review and meta-analysis on a very interesting topic, the comparison of Survival Benefits of Nephron-Sparing Intervention or Active Surveillance for Patients with Localized Renal Masses. The reading of the paper made some considerations emerge.

In the abstract they use the acronym TA without defined it before.

In the Materials and Methods section, in the strategy research they should selected only articles written in English. But in the flow-cart of study selection the excluded 7 articles because not in English or Chinese.

Moreover, they stated in the eligibility criteria the exclusion of reviews but in table 1 they included six retrospective reviews.

They selected 8 papers for systematic review and 7 for meta-analysis. In the discussion they mentioned 9 papers.

Only 3 up to 7 selected papers studied TA patients and the meta-regression analysis did not find significant differences between PN and TA. This results cannot translate in the conclusion that "TA (Thermal Ablation) may be an attractive option for those patients deciding against AS.

Of course benign renal masses have different survival rates compared to malignancies. In the revision they included every kind of masses without a previous diagnosis before treatment. This selection bias may impact on the meta-analysis results nevertheless meta-regression did not find differences between T1a and others (but this stratification is not clear).

They did not stress all limitations of the paper.
Please confirm that you have included your review in the ‘Comments to Author’ box?
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